

Gulf of Mexico Alliance Water Quality Team Conference Call Minutes

Date: October 23, 2007

CONFERENCE CALL ATTENDEES

NAME	ORGANIZATION	E-MAIL
Mark Ornelas	ADEM	MEO@adem.state.al.us
Carol Dorsey	ADPH	caroldorsey@adph.state.al.us
Danny Wiegand	EPA GMP	wiegand.danny@epa.gov
Jeanne Allen	EPA GMP	allen.jeanne@epa.gov
Lael Butler	EPA GMP	butler.lael@epa.gov
LaKeshia Robertson	EPA GMP	Robertson.LaKeshia@epa.gov
Phil Bass	EPA GMP	bass.phil@epa.gov
Joel Hansel	EPA R4	hansel.joel@epa.gov
Merrie Beth Neely	FL FWC/FWRI	Merrie.Neely@MyFWC.com
Steve Wolfe	FLDEP	steven.wolfe@dep.state.fl.us
Dugan Sabins	LDEQ	Dugan.Sabins@LA.GOV
Alice Dossett	MSDEQ	alice_dossett@deq.state.ms.us
Henry Folmar	MSDEQ	Henry_Folmar@deq.state.ms.us
Brent Ache	NOAA	brent.ache@noaa.gov
Nancy Wallace	NOAA	nancy.wallace@noaa.gov
RD Ellender	USM	rudolph.ellender@usm.edu
Shiao Wang	USM	shiao.wang@usm.edu

AGENDA

1. Monitoring Standardization "Round Robin for Data Comparability" Fact Sheet - Danny Wiegand
2. Nutrient Fate & Transport Study - Steve Wolfe
3. Microbial Source Tracking/USF MST Project Overview - Danny Wiegand and Shiao Wang (USM)
4. Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Blooms Workshop in New Orleans (November 14-16, 2007) - Steve Wolfe
5. Other Items

MINUTES

1. Initial discussion focused on the need to update the current conference call contact list. Danny Wiegand is currently consolidating several older lists and will forward to the WQ Team for review/changes.
2. Agenda Item 1 (Monitoring Standardization "Round Robin for Data Comparability" Fact Sheet)
 - An overview was provided on the fact sheet being developed for the combined Water Quality (WQ) and Nutrient (NT) Teams monitoring standardization efforts (WQ-3).
 - The draft fact sheet was sent around to the WQ/NT Team for comments and changes. Danny Wiegand compiled the comments and forwarded a final draft to Laurie Rounds on 22 October 2007 for distribution to the WQ/NT Team.
 - The fact sheet outlines the proposed round robin study to standardize monitoring for a core set of nutrient-based water quality parameters across the Gulf. The fact sheet idea was an outcome of the workshop in September 2007, Monitoring Standardization Workshop.
3. Agenda Item 2 (Nutrient Fate & Transport Study)
 - An overview was provided of the upcoming workshop to initiate design of the Nutrient Fate & Transport Study.
 - The workshop is tentatively schedule for the 2nd week of January of 2008. Nancy Wallace will work w/ Laurie Rounds to finalize dates for workshop.
 - Steve Wolfe requested all State Leads identify criteria development points-of-contact to be involved in study design.
4. Agenda Item 3 (Microbial Source Tracking/USF MST Project Overview)
 - An overview was provided of the USF MST project by Shiao Wang of USM.
 - The project is a 3-year effort with University of South Florida's Jody Harwood as the Lead PI and University of West Florida's Joe Lepo and University of Southern Mississippi's RD Ellender and Shiao Wang as co-PIs. The 3 years of work are broken down as follows:
 - YEAR 1 – Identify 2 methods for laboratory tests/method validation. The methods being considered for further study are all PCR (polymerase chain reaction) methods including 2 bacterial (human-specific bacteroides and *Methanobrevibacterium smithii*) and 1 viral (human polyomavirus).
 - YEAR 2 – Apply 2 methods in field testing in 3 areas of the Gulf including Tampa, Pensacola, and the Mississippi Gulf coast.
 - YEAR 3 – Conduct Gulf-wide field testing with 2 methods.
 - Steve Wolfe raised the point that the Governors' Action Plan for the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) calls for WQ-2 to be completed in 36 months. WQ-2 is the MST action item, and the USF project has been identified as the work to satisfy the objectives of that action item. The 36-month deadline is in ~ 18 months. Per Shiao, the USF project will be in the middle of Year 2 (field testing) at the 36-month deadline.

GOMA Water Quality Team
Conference Call Minutes for 23 October 2007

- Lael Butler and Danny Wiegand noted that the USF project was recently awarded in August 2007 due to a delayed grant award process. There will be value in the work completed at the 36-month deadline even though the project schedule is not aligned with the Action Plan schedule.
 - There was discussion on the application of fluorometry for source tracking, but Shiao explained (and Dr. Ellender later reiterated) that fluorometry hasn't been successfully employed in the Gulf due to natural fluorescent compounds, which confound the results. Fluorometry was developed in coastal Virginia. Dr. Ellender stated that studies were conducted in the Gulf using the fluorometric method, but they were not able to repeat the successes seen in Virginia due to the differences in the coastal environments.
 - It was suggested that the Gulf states begin to identify their molecular capabilities within the next 4-5 years.
 - Brent Ache suggested the MST Project Team develop a 1-page summary of the project.
5. Agenda Item 4 (Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Blooms Workshop in New Orleans November 14-16, 2007)
- Steve Wolfe reminded everyone that the workshop is coming up next month. He reminded anyone attending that they must review the pre-workshop documents and send in the reviews in order to attend.
6. Agenda Item 5 (Other Items)
- Steve Wolfe informed everyone a survey/poll will be coming out soon to request input for action plan items for the next 3 to 5 years.

ACTION ITEMS

WHAT	WHO
1. Update Conference Call Attendees List	Danny Wiegand
2. Finalize dates for Nutrient Fate & Transport Study Workshop	Nancy Wallace (w/ Laurie Rounds)
3. Develop MST Project Summary	USF

NEXT CONFERENCE CALL

NOTE: The next scheduled call was moved to 4 December 2007 at 1:00 CST due to schedule conflicts for the normal 4th Tuesday of the month schedule. Please change your calendars!